

February 24, 2003

Subject: 2003/2004 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) Grant Program

Dear OHV Grant Recipient:

The 2002/2003 Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant application process is nearly complete, with a few grants having been held over to the March 20, 2003 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission Meeting. The project agreements for the grants approved at the January 2003 Commission Meeting are being processed, and agencies should be receiving them within a couple of weeks.

Our 2003/2004-grant cycle is approaching quickly with a scheduled May 15, 2003 application deadline. Applications for the 2003/2004 OHV Grant Program must be received at OHV Headquarters in Sacramento, California no later than **5:00 p.m.**,

May 15, 2003 - Applications should be mailed to:
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001.

UPS and other overnight delivery services can address their materials to:
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816-7100

The sample application outline can be requested by calling (916) 324-4442 or by using our website at www.ohv.parks.ca.gov under the Grants Link. Please read the proposed grant regulations that explain the program and types of grants.

For the upcoming grant cycle, it is important to note that several changes to the OHV Grant Program and Regulations have taken place. Assembly Bill (AB) 2274 was signed by the legislature on September 14, 2002 and went into effect on January 1, 2003. These changes are important because the 2003/2004 OHV Grant applications must comply with this statute. The following are brief but important changes you should be aware of prior to developing your 2003/2004 applications:

NEW TYPES OF OHV GRANTS

- Applicants may submit stand alone enforcement grants that need not be part of an Operation & Maintenance grant or cooperative agreement.
- Planning grants now include certain types of studies.
- Resource management projects now include natural and cultural resources.
- Winter & Summer grant applications can be combined into one application for Enforcement grants and Forest Service cooperative agreements.

In addition, the grant program has been expanded to include:

- Native American Tribes
- Educational institutions
- Non-profit organizations

Additional changes resulting from AB 2274 include:

- Use of the term "restoration over "rehabilitation."
- Differentiation between major and minor maintenance.
- Grant sub-category definitions for conservation, enforcement, restoration, and resource management.
- Noise education was added as part of a safety education program.
- Annual performance reviews are now required of all local grants and Federal cooperative agreements.
- Evaluation criteria for the review of submitted applications has expanded.
- Addition of annual public hearing to receive input from the public regarding the OHV program.
- Inclusion of the Commission's role in providing guidance to the Division based on the annual public hearing.
- A match of 25% is not required for enforcement grants by local agencies.

The OHMVR Division believes that the changes implemented as a result of AB2274 are positive, and will further the development of the grant program in the coming years. If you have questions concerning changes to the OHV grant program please contact the grant administrator assigned to your agency or call (916) 324-4442. To help answer questions you may have regarding AB2274, the complete text of the bill has been placed on the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division website at www.ohv.parks.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued interest in the OHMVR Grant Program. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your 2003/2004 grant applications.

Sincerely,

Anthony Perez, Chief
California State Parks
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division